



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## ***NEW SBA SIZE STANDARDS COULD ADD NEARLY 5,000 TO RANKS OF SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS***

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has increased its size standard for health care providers, substantially expanding the number of businesses that can qualify as “small” for government programs and services.

The agency estimates that nearly 5,000 firms will benefit from the change, mostly skilled nursing care facilities, and offices and clinics operated by doctors. Under the previous size standard, the health care industry qualified a business as “small” if its annual revenues were \$5 million or less. The new SBA size standards set higher size thresholds for 19 of the 30 industries in the health care category.

**“Like so many parts of our economy, the health care services industry has changed rapidly in recent years,”** said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. **“The SBA size standards that have been implemented more accurately reflect these changes. The new standards will provide these growing firms with continued access to SBA’s small business development assistance, helping them succeed and serve their customers into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”**

The SBA has adopted a \$25 million size standard for hospitals and kidney dialysis centers; \$10 million for nursing care facilities, medical laboratories and home health care services; and \$7.5 million for outpatient care facilities and offices and clinics operated by physicians. The changes were based on a review of the economic characteristics of firms in the health care industries.

The remaining sectors, including offices and clinics operated by dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, and other health care practitioners will continue to operate under a size standard of \$5 million.

The formal notice on this final rule appeared in the Federal Register on November 17, 2000 (65 FR 29523), and the size standards take effect on December 18, 2000. A full listing of SBA’s size standards is available at <http://www.sba.gov/size/NAICS-cover-page.htm>.

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*For more information on all of SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1 800 U ASK SBA, or visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

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